

**VERMONT PESTICIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL (VPAC)
November 13, 2014 MEETING MINUTES**

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Decker, Kathy
Giguere, Cary
Hoffman-Contois, Razelle (Chair)
LaValley, Jenn (Admin)
Levey, Rick

MEMBERS ABSENT

Bosworth, Sid
Darrow, Casey
Gary, Lené
Palmer, Eric

GUESTS

Linda Boccuzzo

Meeting Called to Order

1:10 pm EST

Meeting Adjourned

3:50 pm EST

Announcements

- Minutes from July 9, 2014 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved (R. Levey moved, C.Giguere seconded –including communications regarding such from L. Gary and E. Palmer). These will be posted to the VPAC SharePoint site.
- Council Vacancies – Cary will follow up on status of appointment of Ann Hazelrigg of UVM. Razelle will follow up with Casey Darrow regarding his recent appointment to the public agriculture seat.
- VPAC SharePoint site. Razelle will be working with Jenn to make the site more user-friendly including formatting file names so agendas and minutes are listed in chronological order.

Business

Status Reports on Topics of Interest to the Council

- **Mosquito Control** – Razelle relayed a brief status report from Alan Graham, state entomologist. Data collected from this past season is being analyzed. Alan is preparing an arbovirus summary presentation for the upcoming annual meeting of the Northeastern Mosquito Control Association. The Council agreed to devote a meeting in early 2015 to status and recap of Mosquito Control efforts and issues. Alan, as well as others will be invited to present on various aspects including the 2013 deer and moose sero study results and EEE monitoring.
- **Aquatic Nuisance Control and 2,4-D** – Razelle relayed a brief status report from Matthew Probasco, ANR Aquatic Nuisance Control & Pesticide General Permit Coordinator. He anticipates there will be initial conversations regarding possible use of product(s) containing active ingredient 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) for aquatic nuisance control. At present, an environmental management company has been working with the Army Corps of Engineers with a focus on Lake Hortonia. Matthew noted that these parties have been asked to submit a preliminary proposal for review.
- **Dinotefuran** – Kathy reported that products containing this compound have not been used in Jamaica State Park.
- **Compost and Persistent Herbicides** – Cary reported all composters, save one with a significantly older stockpile, have seen some impact including those that stopped using horse manure which had previously been identified to be a potential source of persistent herbicides. UVM has conducted numerous growth tests including a highly positive control. It was noted that over time, impacted materials do not appear to be exhibiting effects. Work continues to determine if levels have decrease in stockpiled materials and the implications of such. Food scraps from wheat containing products have recently been identified to be a major source of such compounds. Implications with regard to Act 148 are undetermined. Next steps include discussions with DOW to see if they will assist in conducting additional analyses.
- **Alternate Means of Vegetation Control on Rail lines in Montpelier** – Cary reported that the rail line declined a cooperative effort, in part because for safety reasons they are not allowed to authorize the public to work on the tracks. Reimbursement for community effort to conduct non-chemical means of control will not occur.
- **Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets Pesticide Regulations** – Cary reported internal review is ongoing. VPAC is invited to offer comments at will. The Council outlined a process for completing review and an aggressive schedule for preparation and submission of comments. It was agreed that each Council member will independently complete review of the Regulation and send any comments on the entire document to Razelle by January 1, 2015. Also, Sections the Council previously flagged for additional discussion will be the focus of the first 2015 meeting. The VPAC will collectively develop comments on these sections. Razelle will compile individual and collective comments into a single. Goal for VPAC comment submission to AAFM is mid-February 2015.
- **Aerial Spraying of Pesticides** – Cary and Linda Boccuzzo described a July 2014 case wherein a permit for aerial application of a product containing the active ingredient pyraclostrobin was issued. Although a permit was issued, for various reasons aerial application did not occur. Ground-based application via truck mounted boom occurred instead.
- **Pollinator Framework** – Cary presented overview of framework and related efforts. The AAFM Beehive Neonicotinoid Study, initially conducted in 2012, was repeated in 2013 and 2014. Current federal strategy prohibits use of all insecticides on plants that are in bloom (with certain provisos) until a State has a pollinator protection plan in place. EPA is required to look at pesticide exposure, thus can only specify what is on product label. Vermont is currently working on a plan. Cary is on a group working to identify essential element of a plan.

Next VPAC meeting: January 2015 Specifics TBD